

RMC Health Care Committee Meeting
June 7, 2016
Maryland Department of Agriculture, Annapolis
Minutes

Participants: Tom McLoughlin, Charlotte Davis, John Kornak, Temi Oshiyoye, Roxanne Hale, Justine Springer, Karen Kverno, Jennifer Witten, Meredith Donaho

Guest Speakers: Dr. David Pruitt, Dr. Nicole Wolf, Kelly Coble

The meeting convened at approximately 1:10 pm.

Chairman McLoughlin called the meeting to order and welcomed participants.

Minutes

The minutes from the May 3, 2016 meeting were presented for review. There being no comments, questions or corrections and upon motion properly made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Telehealth & Adolescent Mental Health Treatment Presentation

Guest Speakers provided an overview of current resources available to meet the needs of rural children and adolescents in need of treatment for mental health.

Dr. Pruitt, Dr. Wolf, and Ms. Coble provided an overview of the BHIPP program, a telehealth service accessible by telephone or video conferencing. BHIPP (Behavioral Health Integrated in Pediatric Primary Care) supports the efforts of primary care providers to assess and manage the mental health needs of their patients from infancy through the transition to young-adulthood through four main components including phone consultation, continuing education, resource & referral networking, and social work co-location. B-HIPP consultants connect primary care providers with appropriate resources in the community or provide general education on a topic such as trauma and adverse experiences, substance abuse, developmental delays, behavioral and learning difficulties, etc. BHIPP is a consultation service for PCPs. All BHIPP consultations are free of charge.

Early diagnosis of mental health disorders in children has shown to decrease the severity of symptoms in later years. The benefits of the program provide for a less stigmatized environment for mental health services, it helps to reduce the gap between the need for mental health services and availability of physicians to provide care, and it has been used effectively to treat autism and trauma care.

BHIPP is a collaboration between the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Salisbury University.

RMPIF – Rural Health Care Organizations

A copy of the guidelines and overview portion for rural health care organizations for RMPIF were distributed to the Committee. Charlotte Davis asked for the Committee to review and provide their suggestions and feedback. No suggestions or changes were provided.

Other Updates

Chairman McLoughlin provided a brief update that the Committee will be sending letters to rural-serving PCPs notifying them of the Healthy Kids/EPSTD program and as part of the Committee's outreach efforts. Letters will also be distributed to rural school superintendents to inform them of our contact with PCPs, and letters have already been distributed to each county Local Health Improvement Coalition contact.

Chairman McLoughlin also provided a brief overview of distributed copies of telehealth policy updates provided in the Center for Connected Health Policy newsletter, including recently released language for legislation entitled "Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes Act (ECHO Act)". The bill is sponsored by Senators Hatch and Schatz, and requires the use of studies and reports to exam the effectiveness of technology to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services. Chairman McLoughlin requested that the Committee review the language in the bill and consider it as a topic of discussion for the next meeting.

There being no further business to be brought to the Committee's attention, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:35 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 6, 1pm-3pm, Location TBD.